

A significant part of the Parishes Group's case is that there has been insufficient consideration of Alternative routes for overhead lines around Chelmsford, namely to the south and east of the City. The Group has consistently argued at all stages of the pre-application consultation process that these alternative routes meet required routeing criteria much better than the proposed route. It has carried out extensive work detailing the precise potential route sections and has commissioned an independent landscape study (Alison Farmer Associates, 2025) which supports its case. The Group has also raised serious concerns about the process followed by the applicant to identify their preferred route and to consult in this regard.

In view of this significant work, and the fact that it represents 9 parish councils across the north west and south of Chelmsford, the Group believes that it can make a vital contribution to hearings about Alternatives. We request therefore that the Examination timetable is amended to either:

- a) allow wider participation in the hearing planned for 13th February (ISH1) by organisations that can make a significant contribution to this topic; or
- b) that a further hearing is added later in the timetable to allow such participation.